

REMARKS

Claims 1 through 22 and 33 through 37 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment and Request for Continued Examination.

The Office Action makes note of the word “hermetic” in claim 3 by asserting the applying a patterned layer onto a metal structure would not completely seal the surface. Applicants note that claim 3 is a process that includes the steps of producing a structured first coating, depositing the hermetic evaporation-coating glass layer on the first coating, and partially removing the first coating and the hermetic evaporation-coating glass layer thereon. Applicants submit that the use of the term “hermetic” in claim is appropriate as the portions of the first coating and the hermetic evaporation-coating glass layer thereon that are not removed by the final step of claim 3 result in a hermetic evaporation-coating glass layer on those un-removed portions of the first coating.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8-11, 14, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over U.S. Patent No. 5,543,775 to Huck (Huck). Claims 1-6, 11, 14, 17, 18, and 33-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over U.S. Patent No. 5,451,548 to Hunt (Hunt). Claims 1, 3-6, 11-15, and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0084885 to Weinand (Weinand). Claim 16 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Weinand. Claims 7 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Hunt in view of *the Handbook of thin film technology* (the *Handbook*). Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over Huck in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,964,495 to Calhoun (Calhoun).

Applicants respectfully traverse submit that the amendments to the claims obviate these rejections.

Independent claims 1 and 33 now each require, in part, the step of “depositing a borosilicate glass comprising aluminum oxide and alkali metal oxide components as an evaporation-coating glass (emphasis added).” Similarly, independent claims 3 and 34 now each require, in part, the step of “depositing a borosilicate glass comprising

aluminum oxide and alkali metal oxide components as an hermetic evaporation-coating glass layer (emphasis added)."

The Office Action asserted that compounds such as Al_2O_3 , MgO or Ga_2O_3 known from the prior art could be understood as binary systems as well so that the claims would be anticipated by Hunt and Huck. Although Applicants respectfully traverse these assertions, claims 1, 3, 33, and 34 have been amended to recite depositing a borosilicate glass as an evaporation-coating in the interest of expediting prosecution, which is not disclosed or suggested by the cited art.

Huck discloses deposition of an SiO_x -layer onto a platinum layer. However, the SiO_x -layer of Huck clearly is not "borosilicate glass" as in the "evaporation-coating glass layer" required by claims 1, 3, 33, and 34.

Hunt discloses evaporation coating of a substrate with a Ga_2O_3 -film. However, the Ga_2O_3 -film of Hunt is also clearly not "borosilicate glass" as in the "evaporation-coating glass layer" required by claims 1, 3, 33, and 34.

Wienand discloses a passivation layer 3 that is made of glass. See paragraph [0036]. However, the glass passivation layer 3 of Wienand does not disclose or suggest the "borosilicate glass" as in the "evaporation-coating glass layer" required by claims 1, 3, 33, and 34.

The *Handbook* and Calhoun are not asserted by the Office Action as disclosing or suggesting the "borosilicate glass" as in the "evaporation-coating glass layer" required by claims 1, 3, 33, and 34.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Huck, Hunt, and Wienand alone, or in combination with the *Handbook* and/or Calhoun, do not disclose or suggest amended claims 1, 3, 33, or 34, or claims 2, 4 through 22, and 35 through 37 that depend therefrom.

In addition, independent claims 33 and 34 require the step of depositing the glass a metallic surface of "a solid metal substrate".

The Office Action asserts that Figure 1 of Hunt discloses that metal substrate 11 is a solid metal substrate as claimed. Applicants traverse this assertion.

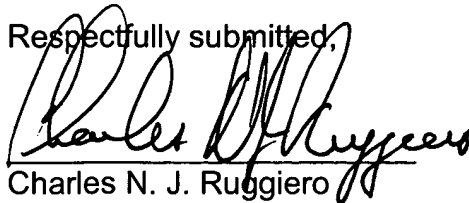
Hunt discloses, with respect to Figure 1, a structure 10 including a "semiconducting, insulating or metallic substrate 11, and a Ga_2O_3 thin film 12". See col. 2, lines 30-33. Thus, Hunt broadly discloses the properties of substrate 11 as being "semiconducting, insulating or metallic". However, Hunt does not specifically disclose or suggest that this metallic substrate can be the solid metal substrate of claims 33 and 34 or claims 35 through 37 that depend therefrom.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to claims 1 through 22 and 33 through 37 are respectfully requested. Such action is solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that consultation with Applicants' attorney would be helpful in the advancement of the prosecution, the Examiner is invited to call the telephone number below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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